

REMARKS

The specification is being amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter is being added. Independent claims, claims 1 and 13, are being amended to incorporate features of former claims 6-8 and 18, and features described, for example, in paragraphs 0026-0028, 0043 and Fig. 2 of the specification as filed. Accordingly, no new matter is being added.

As amended, claims 1 and 13, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over Todokoro, et al., U.S. 6,084,238 (hereinafter "Todokoro I"), which fails to disclose deflectors operable to apply deflection fields to a primary electron beam at spaced-apart locations for deflecting a trajectory of the primary electron beam from a first optical axis to propagate along a second optical axis substantially parallel to and spaced-apart from the first optical axis. Instead, Todokoro I discloses at col. 5, ll. 14-26, conventional scanning deflectors well known in the art and inapposite to the present invention. Moreover, with reference to Todokoro I, Fig. 5, it is noted that Todokoro I describes disposing each of scanning deflectors 15 and 16 between detectors 33 and 34. Put otherwise, Todokoro I indicates that the scanning deflectors are disposed such that one detector is located upstream of the scanning deflectors and one detector is located downstream of the detector. Such an arrangement is directly contrary to the present invention, wherein a deflection assembly has deflectors operable at spaced-apart locations along the column, at least a first of said locations being located upstream of an inner lens detector assembly and at least a second of said locations being located downstream of said inner lens detector assembly.

Todokoro, U.S. 6,635,873, (hereinafter, Todokoro II) is cited for teaching observing residue at the bottom of a high aspect ratio contact hole. Even if true, this disclosure would not cure the deficiencies noted above. Accordingly, claims 1 and 13, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over the combination of Todokoro I and Todokoro II.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

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